

at 2 to 4 *s. per* Pound, our Money, we cannot expend the same in our Families here, under 5 to 7 *s.* and 6 *d. per* Pound, in our Way of Trading; and so, in like Manner, what Melasses they expend in their Families, at 8 to 9 *s. per* Gallon, our Money; we must expend the same in our Families here, at 25 to 30 *s. per* Gallon, in our Way of Trade, or otherwise go without it. Salt also, from 2 to 3 *s.* in *New-York*, which being reduced, at Six for One, is 12 to 18 *s. per* Bushel, our Currency, for which we must give 30 to 40 *s. per* Bushel here: And so, in some Proportion, we may conclude it is with other Merchandize.

[23] Well, if the Case be so, pray consider then. What does all this amount to? Does it not plainly shew, that we are supporting Navigation, Trade, and Commerce in *New-York*, or other of our neighbouring Governments, who are trading with us, at the Expence of our own Inhabitants, to the impoverishing the Publick, and starving the Private, which tends, eventually, to the Destruction of the whole Province: And I query; At whose Door does the Fault lie, that it is so? Is not this proper Business for you? And that you weightily consider those Affairs, and as carefully pursue proper Remedies? Is it possible for the Government to subsist and keep Pace with the neighbouring Governments, while we are running in those indirect Paths? Is it possible that the Commonalty shall steer clear of Poverty whilst in those Paths? In which State, Is it possible for them to cultivate their Lands, and be instrumental to propagate the King's Government according to their Pattents? Or, Is it possible for them to accomplish two or three Day's Work in one Day, or to raise two or three Acres of Corn in one Acre of Ground, and all other necessary Produce in Proportion thereto? Or is it not rather, so far inconsistent, with a rational Idea, that the Labourer is obliged to work upon such Terms, the Effects whereof, will hardly purchase him wherewith to cover his Nakedness, unless the Employer suffer Loss? I appeal to your own Consciences, Is not the State of the Government even such? They that have six or eight Negroes, with proper Utensils for Business, have rather a Scrabble to live, without being, as it were, held up by the Head or Heels, by King or Commonalty, or in some other Shape, than their Plantation Business can afford them, under the present State of the Province. What Encouragement is this; to introduce Foreigners for the further Settlement thereof? Or, How shall a poor Man be able to support his Family, or comply with his Landlord, for his Rents?